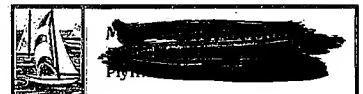


**WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
JOURNAL  
AUGUST 1997**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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# WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 5

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NUMBER 2

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August in October? Sure. We may miss a deadline, but we don't miss "issues". So, as the autumn leaves cascade, you now hold AUGUST, more properly a Dog Days edition. We hope you enjoy it.

We had expected to have a new editor for this edition, but due to unexpected events and conflicts he found it virtually impossible to serve. Consequently, the editor of the last two years was drafted, and Debbie Coker graciously consented to resume the typing of the Journal.

This seems a good time to remind our readers that we copy our "original" material intact—with the original spelling and grammar, and the original pronunciation—or lack thereof. We don't use the rather showy (sic) to proclaim that our "mistakes" are actually the doings of our ancestors. You know it; we have told you before, but the repeating of it comforts our typist. She had rather not have folks think that all those "errors" are hers.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Jean Dunston Caldwell	JDC
Vernon L. Everett, Jr.	VLE
Edwin A. Norman	EAN
Louise Allen Norman	LAN
Allen H. Norris	AHN
Barbara Modlin Revels	BMR

Edited by Edwin A. Norman

Typed by Debra R. Coker

**“.....TO SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION..”**

This is the fifth in our series of Naturalization Cases recorded in the Minutes of the Washington County Superior Court.

Saturday of Fall Term 1857    )  
Isaac Abraham Cohn            )  
To the Court                    )

Naturalization

At a Superior Court of Law held for the County of Washington at the Courthouse in Plymouth on the 2d Monday of September 1857, before his Hon. J.F. Caldwell, Judge of said court the same being a court of record and having common law jurisdiction and a seal and clerk Isaac Abraham Cohn a free white person native of Prussia and now resident of said county applies to said court to become a citizen of the United States according to acts of Congress in such cases made and provided, and the said Cohn exhibited to the court a certificate duly authenticated which is in the words and figures following—“At a Superior Court of Law begun and held for the County of Pasquotank at the Courthouse in Elizabeth City on the fourth Monday after the fourth Monday in September A.D. 1854, before Hon. John M. Dick. Judge, Isaac Abraham Cohn a native of Prussia a free white person and at the present time a resident of the County aforesaid appears, the said court being a court of record having common law jurisdiction and a seal and a clerk and the said Isaac Abraham Cohn being duly sworn, declares upon oath that it is bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to William IV King of Germany and Prussia of whom he is now a subject,” whereupon it is ordained that the said declaration of said Isaac Abraham Cohn be duly recorded by the clerk of this court.

Sworn to and subscribed  
in open court this 27 of  
Oct. 1854

Signed  
Isaac Abraham Cohn

Signed: F.M. Charles, Clk

and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court upon the oath and examination of Charles Latham and James Magee that the said Cohn has resided within the United States for five years next preceeding his application and for one year next preceeding his application has resided in North Carolina and it appearing from the oath of said witnesses that for the five years aforesaid the said Cohn has behaved as a man of good moral character attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and was disposed to the good order and happiness of the same and the said Cohn thereupon being duly sworn declares upon oath that he will support the Constitution of the United States and that he doth absolutely renounce and abjure all allegiance to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whosoever and particularly all allegiance and fidelity to Frederick William King of Prussia of whom he is now a subject. And thereupon Isaac Abraham Cohn is admitted to become a citizen of the United

States of America, and it is ordered that all of the above proceedings be recorded by the clerk of this court.

*(From Microfilm: Washington County Superior Court Minutes. NC Archives.)*

---

Isaac Abrahm Cohn is recorded in neither the Washington County Census of 1850, nor that of 1860, indicating a relatively short sojourn within the county. The marriage of Rachel Cohn (a daughter? a sister?) to Bernhard Weisel, took place in May 1857, just five months before Isaac was awarded citizenship. Weisel was a merchant. Was Cohn also a merchant, or, perhaps, a partner or an employee of Weisel?

WCGS will appreciate any information on this family.



### **ANOTHER OLD CHAPEL**

Skiddersville Chapel has been thought to be the first church in what is now Washington County, but there is evidence that there was a chapel in the Holly Neck area that would predate 1735. The area was settled before 1700 by Swains, Wileys, Suttons, Longs, and others. What we know as Holly Neck Road was part of the main road from Lee's Mill to the Scuppernong River. Middle Neck Swamp was the name of what we know as Chapel Swamp. Deeds began to appear with Chapel Swamp to the south of the main road and Middle Neck Swamp to the north. The possible location of the chapel would have been on a road on the west side of the swamp that went back to Long's Branch, or Longbranch as it is called in some deeds. This part of the road was abandoned in the early 1900s, when the Norfolk Southern Railroad put in a line from Mackeys to Columbia.

One James Long, a resident of the area, gave land for a chapel but the location is not given. Court records, deeds, and patents began to show the location as "old" or "auld" Chapel Swamp so it would not be confused with the swamp beside the Skiddersville Chapel. The name Middle Neck Swamp was phased out over the years and the entire swamp was known as Chapel, except where it empties into the Albemarle Sound, and that was known as White's Creek.

VLE



### **A RESIGNATION**

Silvanus Spruill —16 Oct. 1822—Lt. Colonel, Washington County.

*(Abstracts of Letters of Resignation of Militia Officers of N.C. 1799-1840)*

## A "POWER TO COLLECT"

State of North Carolina ) Know all men by these presents that I Elsbury  
Washington County ) Ambrose in right of my wife Prescilla & in  
her right for good causes & considerations do authorize and inpower Absalom  
Davenport to ask demand and receive from Robert B. Davis Administrator on  
the estate of Henry Phelps all the moneys or effects in the hands of said R.B.  
Davis adm. Now, and by these presents do grant my sole and full power and  
authority to take, pursue and follow such legal courses for the recovery,  
receiving & obtaining the same as I myself might or could do, and upon receipt  
of the same acquitances or other sufficient discharges for me, and in my name In  
witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the 7d day of Dec. 1839

Elsbury Ambrose

(Snell Family Papers-Private Collection)

(The back of the original instrument, Ambrose's name is written "Berrey". We suspect that was the name by which he was most widely known.)



## A KIND WORD FROM WILLIAM BYRD

Byrd, during the running of *The Dividing Line* between the colonies of North Carolina and Virginia in 1728, penned one of his few complimentary observations of the Carolinians: "The inhabitants hereabouts take the trouble to dig abundance of wolf-pits so deep and perpendicular that, when a wolf is tempted into them, he can no more scramble out again, than a husband who had taken the leap can scramble out of matrimony."



## A FOLK TALE

The master would frequently give his favorite slave a ham bone from which the meat had all but been removed. The old slave commented on this one day, to which the master replied, "Don't you know, Joe, 'the nigher the bone, the sweeter the meat?'"

Soon Master told Joe to take his prized horse out for a day of good pasture. When he observed that the animal had been put in a pasture that had been picked clean by the sheep, he upbraided the slave, who logically replied, "Well Massa, you said 'the nigher the bone, the sweeter the meat', so I thought 'the nigher the ground, the sweeter the grass'".

**LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT**  
**Dempsey Spruill (1779-1842)**  
**Cool Spring, Washington County**

RECORD OF WILLS  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, N.C.  
Book A. pp 178-181

State of North Carolina ) In the name of God amen. I Dempsey Spruill of the  
Washington County ) State and County aforesaid being of sound mind and  
in good health do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner as  
following, my desire is that my Executors shall pay all my just debts and  
general expences Viz

1<sup>st</sup> Item I lend unto my beloved wife Mary Spruill the house and plantation  
whereon I now live, together with all of the lands that I am seased & possed of  
Viz the tract of body land whereon William Spruill lives, also the tract of land  
whereon my son Downing Spruill moved from adjoining the poplers land  
together with all my working tools, Horses, mules cattle & hoggs, sheep &  
house hold & kitchen furniture of every discription during her life time.

2<sup>nd</sup> I now lend unto my wife Mary all my stock of Negroes of every discription  
both young and old to her disposal, Also those Negroes that is lent out to my  
children to her disposal to take or let her keep them to be to her disposal her life  
time or she has a right to lend any one of the Negroes to any one of the children  
as she may think proper or to take them away at her pleasure.

3<sup>rd</sup> And I further give unto my wife all of my money and notes that are in the  
House to the use of my Mary. Also all of my Constable receipts to her also

4<sup>th</sup> Item Now my will and desire is that all of my Negroes at the death of my  
wife Mary shall all come in together of every description and to be equally  
divided among my lawful heirs except my son Downing Spruill

5<sup>th</sup> Item Now I give unto my daughter Ann Caroline an bed and furniture the  
first choice. Two cows and calves to her and her heirs forever.

6<sup>th</sup> I now gave unto my Daughter Hinretta Dunston to her and her heirs forever  
which is now in my possession all of her own property. I also gave to her three  
cows and calves of the stock that will be in the posseson of my wife Mary Spruill  
at her death and three ewes and lambs

7<sup>th</sup> Now my will and desire is that all of my house-hold and kitchen furniture  
Horses Cattle Sheep and all of the rest of my chattle property of every  
discription after taken out the chattle property I have given away to my two  
daughters (viz) Ann Caroline & Heneretta Dunston to be eaquelly divided  
between my lawful heirs after the death of my wife Mary Spruill Excepting my  
son Downing Spruill as he is not to come in as my an heir as I have given away  
to him his legacy before



8<sup>th</sup> Now I gave unto all of my lawfull heirs at my death money enough to buy them a mourning suit except my son Downing Spruill.

9<sup>th</sup> Now I gave unto my son Downing Spruill one negroe woman by the name of Pateanel and one Negroe boy by the name of Mosses which he has now in his possession, Als I gave unto him one dollar in cash which is full of my estate as to his part to heir and his heirs forever

9<sup>th</sup> Item I gave unto my son William Spruill at the death of my wife Mary Spruill one tract of land whereon he now lives known by the name of the Body Farm. Also one peace of scypress swamp adjoining of Miles Bateman Zephniah Spruill & others, thirty three acres by the same more or less to him and his heirs forever

10<sup>th</sup> Now I gave unto my Grand son Dempsey Spruill the son of William A. Spruill Ten acres of land adjoining the lands of P.C. Dudley, & others to him and his heirs forever

11<sup>th</sup> Now I gave unto my Daughter Clarisa & P.C. Dudley one tract of land known by the Pinner land by estimation eighty acres be the same more or less adjoining of the land of Caleb Phelps & others to them thier heirs and assigns forever

12<sup>th</sup>(Item) I gave unto my two Daughters Ann Caroline & Heneretta Dunston all of my lands whereon my son Downing Spruill mooved from adjoining the lands of Elias Oliver heirs and others by estimation two hundred and twenty acres by the same more or less with the land to be eququally divided between the two girls and the dividing line to run through the middle of the East and West including of all of the lands on the east side of my bigg ditch and my Daughter Heneretta Dunston to have the North scide of the said dividing line and Ann Caroline to have the south scide of the said line to them and there heirs and assigns forever after the death of there Mother Mary Spruill

13<sup>th</sup> I now gave unto my Daughter Sallah wife of Isac C. Bateman one tract or parcell of land adjoining of the Davis land and known by the Saudaey Davenport land laying on the west side of my bigg ditch estimated to be eighty one acres by the same more or less to her and her heirs forever after the death of my wife Mary Spruill

14<sup>th</sup> I gave unto my son William A. Spruill one other tract of land adjoining the lands of the widow Snell called Green land Swamp by estimation sixty five acres more or less to him and his heirs forever

15<sup>th</sup> Now I gave unto my Daughter Mary Swain the wife of Jeremiah Swain seventy five acres of land to be laid off to her out of the east end of the said tract of land whereon I now live with the death of her mother Mary Spruill.

16<sup>th</sup> I now give and bequeath unto my Daughter Ann Caroline the house and plantation whereon I now live that is to say after taking out the seventy five

acres that I gave away Harry Swain as above stated to her the said Ann and her heirs forever after the death of her mother

17<sup>th</sup> I gave unto my Grand Son Dempsey Woodley the son of Eli Woodley twenty acres of land adjoining of the lands of Benjamin Arnold and James W. Davis and others to him and his heirs forever after the death of his Grand Mother Mary Spruill

18<sup>th</sup> I now gave unto Ebenezer Dunston my Grand Son whereon John Dunston last lived adjoining of Pettigrews Chaple to him all of the said tract of land and of my right and title Interest in the said tract of land to him and his heirs forever.

19<sup>th</sup> I now gave unto John Dunston my Grand son one tract of land known by the Buck head laying in Tyrrell County all of my interest in the said tract of land to have his heirs and assigns forever

Now I revoke all other wills and this will to be my true and last will and Testament. Now I leave & ordain as my worthy friends my beloved wife Mary Spruill and my son William A. Spruill my hole and sole Executors to this my last will and testament in witness whereoff I have hereto set my hand and fix my seal this the 11<sup>th</sup> day October in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and forty one

(Signed) Dempsey Spruill (Seal)

R.B. Davis  
Asa Ansley

It is my wish and desire that all the legaces and bequests herein mentioned in this my last will and testament should be all considered as given subject to the life estate of my wife Mary according to the first, second and third clauses of this my will except the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars in money given to my Daughter Ann Caroline which I desire to be given to her without interest at any time according to the direction of her Mother and such gift to be considered independent of and apart from any share she may afterwards be entitled to receive in the division of my estate according to the directions of this my will given under my hand an seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1842.

Witness Hardy Hardison  
Josiah Collins

his  
Dempsey x Spruill  
mark

State of North Carolina ) Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions  
Washington County ) \_\_\_\_\_ Term 1842

The due execution of the foregoing last will and testament of Dempsey Spruill deceased was duly proved by the oath of Robert B. Davis one of the subscribing witnesses therto who made oath that the said Dempsey Spruill in the presence of him said Robt B Davis and also in the presence of Asa Ansly the

other subscribing witness signed sealed published and declared the foregoing paper writing preceding the codicil as and for his last will and testament and that the said Davis and the said Asa Ansly subscribed the same at the request of said testator in his presence and in the presence of each other as witnesses. And the due execution of the foregoing codicil to the last will and testament of the said Dempsey Spruill was duly proved by the oath of Josiah Collins one of the subscribing witnesses thereto who made oath that the testator Dempsey Spruill in the presence of him the said Collins and in the presence of Hardy Hardison the other subscribing witness signed sealed published & declared the same as & for a codicil to his last will and testament in the presence of said subscribing witnesses Whereupon Mary Spruill & William A. Spruill the Execetrix and Executor named in the said will qualified thereunto and it is ordained that the said will and codicil be recorded and that letters testamentary issue.

Test T.E. Pender Clk

State of North Carolina )  
Washington County )

I F.F. Fagan Clk of the Court of Pleas &  
Quarter Sessions of said County do certify the foregoing to be a true copy from  
the records of my office

15 Sept 1852

F.F. Fagan Clk



### AN EARLY SCHOOLHOUSE

The first record of a school building in Washington County was in the Skinnersville section. John Phelps purchased a 100 acre tract of land from Asa O. Gaylord January 3, 1832. This land was located on the southwest corner of Holly Neck Road and U.S. Highway 64. It had been part of a 360 acre grant to James Hawkins in 1715. James in turn assigned the land to his brother Thomas Hawkins.

In a deed dated Sept. 11, 1832 John Phelps in "consideration of one dollar" gave to John B. Chesson, Thomas Norman, and Andrew L. Chesson trustees, one half acre on the south side of the road leading from Skinnersville to Mackey's Ferry, upon which they were to build a schoolhouse. Two of Thomas and Amelia Norman's children are buried at Rehoboth Church. The Chessons lived between Chapel Swamp and Beech Neck Swamp on land purchased by Samuel Chesson before his death. This was the site of John Worley's plantation which goes back to early 1700.

VLE

## AMARIAH BIGGS

Amariah Biggs was the minister of the Morratock Primitive Baptist Church, south of Plymouth, from 1802 through 1827. Amariah was the son of James Biggs and Bethia Fanshaw of Currituck County. The church record indicates he was born 21 October 1769, but he is listed as one of 9 children in his fathers will which was written 8 Sept. 1769, and probated December Court 1768. October of the previous year would be 1766.

Amariah went to sea during the Revolutionary War as a cabin boy., and was taken prisoner by the British and released upon acknowledgement that the war had ended. He traveled considerably in England and France before he could obtain a passage back to America. He married Dorothy \_\_\_ of Camden County shortly after he returned, and spent 5 years in Halifax County where he was called to the work of the ministry. Amariah and family then moved to Tyrrell County and took pastoral charge of the church at Scuppernong.

Amariah took a letter of dismissal from Scuppernong in 1802 and became a member at Morratock, where he served as pastor until his death in 1827. In his later years Amariah indulged himself in the use of ardent spirits. This may have been a factor in his death, for he was drowned crossing the Albemarle Sound. The church records indicate he left a wife and 7 children. There is little information as to the identity of the children.

Amariah sold land to 3 of them.

1. Davis Biggs, born c.1790-94, who married Celia Spruill, daughter of James S. Spruill.
2. John Biggs, born c.1790-94. Wife Sarah.
3. James Biggs, born c.1795-1800. Wife unknown.  
The above named sold the land and apparently left the area after 1830.
4. Levi Biggs, born 1801. Wife Nancy.
5. Reverend Stephen M. Biggs, born 1809, died 1902. Wife Nancy A.
6. Amariah Biggs, born about 1815, death date unknown. Married 1<sup>st</sup> Mary E. Davenport. Married 2<sup>nd</sup> Rose \_\_\_. Enlisted CSA during the Civil War.
7. Unknown female child

Dorothy Biggs had 17.7 acres of her land sold for taxes in 1834. Her death date is unknown.

Amariah's father James Biggs of Currituck County and his brother William who moved to Bertie County, then into the Martin County section of Tyrrell were the ancestors of the Biggs family of eastern North Carolina. They were sons of Thomas Biggs who was born in England 1648-49 and came to America with his father about 1650.

VLE

*(Currituck County Records; Tyrrell County and Washington County Deeds;  
1820-1830 Washington County Census; Baptist Church Records  
Civil War Records; Biggs Family Genealogy.)*

## SKINNERSVILLE

Skinnerville was named for the Skinners who came over the sound from Chowan County. The earlier Skinners migrated from Isle of Wight County, Virginia to Perquimans County. The first record of Skinner is in 1770 when Samuel Skinner purchased an 88 acre tract of land on Holly Neck Branch from John Leary. After a few years Skinner sold it back to Leary. The Holly Neck Church of Christ occupies a portion of this tract now.

Evan Skinner, son of Samuel, married Sarah Swain, daughter of John Swain Sr., 5 April 1779. Joshua Swain, brother of John, sold to Evan Skinner 50 acres of land adjacent to the Skinnerville Chapel lot in 1782. There is no evidence in the court records or deed books that the chapel was known other than the "Chapel" or "Free Chapel". The Skinnerville designation was added in later years.

The Skinnerville Post Office was established on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1808 with John Rogers as its first postmaster. The location was Pea Ridge road at what was later known as the Thomas Basnight place. This was the first post office to be established in Washington County. The Plymouth Post Office was first post office to be established in Tyrrell County, in 1792.

Evan and Sarah Skinner had sons John and Samuel and possibly other children. Evan deeded to son Samuel the 50 acre tract he had purchased from Joshua Swain. Samuel purchased the 1 acre Chapel lot from Swain descendants in 1812. Samuel was murdered in 1822 and the property was sold for taxes in 1835.

The post office site remained in that area under various names until 1850. The area became known as Skinnerville District; the township was formed in 1868.

VLE



## SALE OF THE ROANOKE HOTEL

By virtue of a Deed of Trust, executed to me by Enoch Jones, dated January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1855, for the purpose of securing the payment of certain notes therein set forth; I shall sell in the Town of Plymouth on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1856, the Roanoke Hotel, embracing Lots No. 921, 98, 116 and 117, with the improvements thereon, together with all the furniture connected with the same.

### TERMS OF SALE

The purchaser will be required to give his notes with GOOD and APPROVED security, as follows:

One note for \$2000, due January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1857.

One note for \$2000, due January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1858.

One note for \$2000 due January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1859.

All notes to bear interest from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1855. The remainder to be paid in CASH. The said property is very desirable for Hotel Purposes.

Charles Latham, Trustee.

Plymouth, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1856.—6w

*(The Plymouth Banner, Volume 1, Friday, February 15, 1856)*

BMR

PORTION OF FIRST PAGE  
Tyrrell County Court Minutes  
April Term 1797

At an Inferior Court of Pleas and quarter Superior  
Court and held for the County of Tyrrell at the Court House  
in Tyrrell on the fourth Monday of April being the  
twenty fourth day of the said Month in the  
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and  
ninety seven and of American Independence the  
XXI 1797

---

Present The Worshipful

---

Henry Norman } Esquire

The Court adjourned till to morrow morning  
Eight o'clock.

---

The Court met according to adjournment

Present The Worshipful

---

Jeremiah Fraser

Henry Norman

John Parkinton

} Esquire

**TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN OLD TYRRELL**  
**Selected Items From the Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions: 1797**

January Term

Present the Worshipful Robert Davison, Jeremiah Frasier, John Tarkenton, Esqs.

- Grand Jurors were: Christopher Duckett, Andrew Bateman, Eleazer Swain, James Truman, Benjamin Spruill, Jesse Spruill, John Swain, John Chesson, John Liverman, Richard Frasier, John Swain, son of Stephen, Levi Blount, Samuel Spruill. Constable attending: John Clayton.
- John Warrenton was appointed Constable in the room and district of John Davenport.
- Last will and testament of John Wynne introduced by Robert Wynne and proved by oath of Andrew Wynne.
- Daniel Davenport returned the dower of Mrs. Ann Lee, widow of Thomas Lee.
- Deed of Sale of land from John Tarkenton to Joseph Tarkenton proved by oath of Joseph Tarkenton.
- Capt. James Swain allowed £6. 13s for keeping public ferry January 1796-January 1797.
- Robert Wynne, public ferry, £5. 9s.
- Ordered that Hezekiah Johnson be bound to Joseph Phelps to learn the Art & Mistery of a Blacksmith and the said Master to give the said apprentice three months schooling.
- Elijah Warrenton granted leave to keep an ordinary.
- John Murfree was granted leave to keep an ordinary. Ditto, Isaac Patrick.
- Charles Spruill appointed County Treasurer.
- Arthur Rhodes appointed constable.
- Ann Wynne, widow of John, granted leave to keep ferry formerly kept by John.
- Michael King, Alexander Hopkins, Thomas Stubbs, son of Thomas, appointed Patrolers in the District of Capt. Stephen Blount.
- Matthew Bateman, Joseph Ansley, Jun., Asa Phelps: in Capt. Isaac Patricks district.
- John Garrett, Joseph Garrett, Benjamin Hardison: in Capt. Webbs District.

April Term

Present: Jeremiah Frasier, Henry Norman, John Tarkenton, Esqs.

- Deed of sale of eight lots in Elizabethtown from John Hassell to Isaac Patrick was proved.
- Deed of sale of a lot in the Town of Plymouth from Richard Huff and wife to Benjamin \_\_\_\_? was proved by oath of Capt. Harman Webb.
- Ordered that Stephen Swain be discharged from keeping a public ferry across the sound.

- Ordered that Mary Craddock be allowed the sum of seven pounds for the support of a bastard child begotten on the body of the said Mary Craddock by Levin Davis to be paid quarterly & that execution issue against said Davis & his securities.
- Ordered that Kesiah Snell be allowed the sum of seven pounds for the first year & six pounds for every other year until the child arrives at the age of seven, for the support of a bastard child begotten upon her body by Darius Spruill. And that execution issue against him to the County of Beaufort or any other county in the State in order to recover the sum of £19 ..which is now due. Execution to issue in future quarterly in order to recover the cost of the allowance as it becomes due.
- Jemima Norman, administrator of estate of Joel Norman, returned inventory.

#### July Term

Present: Joseph Spruill, Jeremiah Frasier, Charles Spruill, Esqs.

Grand Jurors: John Goelet, Thomas Fagan, Samuel Young, Thomas Corprew, Levi Stubbs, John Stubbs, Thomas Walker, \_\_\_?\_\_\_ Wyatt, John Marriner, Joshua Spruill, Hezekiah Norman, John Swain.

- The last will and testament of Anthony Ward was produced by Elizabeth Ward, and proved by the oath of John Smith.
- Ordered that Rebecca Barn be allowed eight pounds for her first year allowance for the support and maintenance of a bastard begotten on her body by Andrew Oliver and that execution issue against said Andrew and his securities for the same.
- The will of Thomas Stubbs, Jun., was introduced by Thomas Stubbs, son of Thomas & proved by oath of James Stubbs.
- A deed of gift of two Negroes from John Gibson to Mary Ann Ward, alias Gibson, was proved by oath of Zebedee Smith.
- A deed of a Negro girl and other property from John Gibson to Saley Ann Ward alias Gibson.....
- A deed of gift of a Negro girl and other property from John Gibson to Chrisehana Ward alias Gibson was proved....
- A deed of gift of sundry articles from John Gibson to Mary Ann Ward was proved.....
- Ordered that John Swain have leave of administration on the estate of Hezekiah Swain. Bond: £500. Securities were Steven Swain and Elijah Warrenton.
- Ordered that Elizabeth Haughton have leave of administration on estate of Levi Horton.
- Ordered that execution issue against William Murrey and his executors for £20 the allowance of the Court for the support of the child begotten on the body of Jemime Phelps by the said Murrey.
- The petition of Christopher Duckett for the building of a saw & grist mill was read in court.....



- Ordered that William Mcgound have leave to keep an ordinary.
- Ordered that Thomas Spruill, administrator of the estate of Jesse Hatfield, Jun., have leave to take the papers of the said estate out of the hands of Jesse Hatfield, Sen.
- Daniel Davenport, Esq., Andrew Oliver & Asa Phelps were appointed patrolers in Asa Phelps's district.

#### October Term

- Ordered that Nancy Walker be appointed guardian to Betsy Walker orphan of Benjamin Walker. Bond: £1000. Thomas Walker & Willis Draper, securities.
- Ordered that Mary Allcock be allowed two pounds for her months expenses lying in with the child begotten on her body by Moses Davenport & that execution issue against said Davenport for said allowance.
- Ordered that Martin R. Byrd be appointed guardian to Thomas Lee, Stevens Lee & Ann Lee, orphans of Thomas Lee. Samuel Chesson & James Long, securities.
- Deed of gift of a Negro girl named Rose from Mrs. Francis Mackey to her daughter Frances Lee....proved by oath of James Jones, Esq.
- Ordered that Jesse Davis be appointed guardian to Samuel Johnson and Charles Johnson, orphans of Randel Johnson.
- That James Haskins, Esq. Have leave to keep an ordinary.
- Ordered that John Clayton be appointed guardian to David Clayton, Benjamin Sutton Clayton & Mary Clayton, his three children.
- Thomas Walker was granted leave to keep ferry from White Marsh Landing to Lockharts Shipyard. Single man & horse 10 shillings; if more 6s.
- Ordered that Samuel Nichols orphan of Samuel Nichols be bound to Joseph Nichols to learn the Art & Mystery of a cooper & the said master learn the said apprentice to read, right & cypher as far as the Rule of Three.
- Ordered paid to John Clayton 8 shillings per day for 4 days service at April court.
- Henry Norman, Esq. returned in open court the bond of Ishmeal Davenport for support of bastard child on Joanna Alexander. Benjamin Davenport, Miles Hatfield, John Patrick, securities.

This is the fifth year that we have had a "Two Hundred Years Ago" article. Again, we remind the genealogist and the local historian, "Ignore the County Court Records at your peril."



Sir Winston Churchill once admonished a Society against "rusting on ones laurels".  
Not bad advice for genealogists!

State of North Carolina, }  
 Washington COUNTY. }  
 Office of Register of Deeds,  
 September 10<sup>th</sup> 1884

To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination or any Justice of the Peace of said County:

Eli Snell having applied to me for a **LICENSE** for the Marriage  
 of himself of Washington Co. N.C. aged 45 years,  
 color White the son of Franklin Snell and Edney E. Snell  
 the father Dece the mother Dece resident of Washington Co. N.C.  
 And Mariah N. Norman of Washington Co. N.C. aged 34 years,  
 color White daughter of Thomas A. Clayton and Cornelia Clayton  
 the father Dece the mother Living resident of Washington Co. N.C.

And the written consent of \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
 of the said \_\_\_\_\_ to the proposed marriage having been filed with me.  
 And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within  
 one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the said county.  
 You are required, within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage, to return this License to me at  
 my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with the blanks therein filled according  
 to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

W. H. Stubbs  
 Register of Deeds.

1. Name of person applying for license.	8. Living or dead.	15. Father's name.
2. Name of person to be married.	9. Living or dead.	16. Mother's name.
3. Living or dead.	10. Residence if known, if not, state unknown.	17. Living or dead.
4. Age.	11. Name of woman to be married in full.	18. Living or dead.
5. White or colored.	12. Residence.	19. Residence if known, if not, state unknown.
6. Living or dead.	13. Age.	20. If both parties are over 16 years of age, strike out.
7. Name of man to be married.	14. White or colored.	

Edwards, Broughton & Co., Steam Printers and Binders, Raleigh, N. C.

### BRIDE AND GROOM

Eli Snell (1839-1907) was son of Franklin (1806-1860) and Edney E. (1810-1883) Snell. Eli was a farmer of eastern Skinnersville, and a veteran of the 17<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment. This was his first (and only) marriage. He and Maria would have one daughter, born in 1886.

Maria (pronounced "Mariah") Clayton Norman (1848-1920) was daughter of Thomas A. (1816-1865) and Cornelia Mann Clayton, and granddaughter of John Clayton, murdered in 1814. Maria was widow of Henderson Norman (1845-1880) by whom she had four children, three of whom were living when she married Eli.

## A REMEDY FOR DYSENTERY

Sharon Mond July 5<sup>th</sup> 1852

My Dear Son

Your favor of 29<sup>th</sup> Ult. Is in hand, and I regret to learn so many of you have been sick. The best remedy for the dysentery or bloody flux is good doses of salts at first—then table spoonful of castor oil & teaspoonful of turpentine or some laudanum to ease the pain. Solon Robinson said a tea of sweet gum bark & I think some French brandy in it was a certain remedy. Sweet gum bark soaked in cold water and drank instead of water I find is a most excellent remedy—also a tea made of sweet gum—red oak (not yellow) and inner pine bark is a good remedy.

The disease is still going on here—two new cases this morning. Some children quite low.—for them I find nothing better than oil and sweet gum bark in cold water.—White family are all well. Aunt Louisa was taken very ill—but a large dose of salts cured her.—Hope Betty will get to school as early as circumstances will justify—Louisa also so soon as her health will bear it.—Suppose you & Thomas prefer going to school in the woods to City.—I fear neither of you are doing much.—Thomas however I suppose will be learned as he is beginning to make speeches not to be understood (or unknown tongue)—Tell him I shall try and write him soon as I get paper (this is the last sheet)..... Tell Betty I wrote her before you—To write as soon as she gets to Louisburg.

Very dry here—though I have had several light showers lately. Up the road in places they have had fine rains. Could I have rains enough to wet the corn roots & no storms I should make more corn than ever. Aunt Louisa and Stockton unite in love to all of you. I must close as the hands are waiting for me. 100 acres of corn now to hill—many persons have finished.

Truly yours as ever

Swain S. Norman

Joseph S. Norman

---

This letter was written by Joseph Swift Norman (1894-1864) from his plantation, "Sharon" in Skinnersville District. The house stood several hundred feet from the intersection of present-day US 64 & NC 32 south of NC 32's Albemarle Sound Bridge.

Sharon, circa 1860, consisted of about 1150 acres and supported fifty-nine slaves. The "hands" that are "waiting for me" were slaves. From his various writings, we surmise that Norman spent much time in the fields. We suspect that he would have agreed with Inglis Fletcher's adage, expounded in her Carolina novels, "The sound of the master's step is worth a load of manure".

The "Aunt Louisa" was Louisa Ford, then about 57 years old. "Betty" and "Louisa" were the daughters of the writer, widowed in 1846. Betty, about 16, was about to enroll in college at Louisburg, N.C. Ann Louisa was age 12.

"Swain S.", the "Dear Son" of the letter, and his brother, Thomas Joshua, aged about 16 & 13, respectively, were in some sort of prep school at Ringwood, Halifax County, N.C. A third brother, Joseph Stockton, not mentioned here but prominent in subsequent letters, was about nine years old. He would be mortally wounded at Bermuda Hundred in 1864 while serving in his brother Thomas' company of the 17<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment.

Letter courtesy: JDC  
Notes by: EAN



### HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The following items are found in *Abstracts of Vital Records From Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers*. All are from the *Raleigh Star*.

- Married in Washington County, on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., by the Rev. Mr. Swift, Joseph S. Norman, Esq., to Miss M.C. Swift, only dau of the late Rev. Swain Swift. Fri 22 Feb 1833
- Married in Camden County on the 17 ult., Mr. Bailey Spruel to Miss Margaret Spence. 9 May 1823
- Died in Camden County, on the 23d ult., Mr. Bailey Spruel, aged about 30. Fri 13 June 1823
- Died at Cool Spring, Washington County, on the 4<sup>th</sup> ult., Mrs. Rhoda Spruill, wife of Hardy N. Spruill, Esq., Post Master of that place. 28 May 1829
- Married in Tyrrell County, on the 10<sup>th</sup> isnt. by Daniel N. Bateman, Esq., Mr. William Spruill to Miss Amelia M'Cray. 26 Nov 1829

---

Married. In Williamston on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. By the Rev. C.B. Hassell, John Nicholls to Miss M. Fannie Robertson of the former place.

The *Plymouth News*. Friday October 12, 1849

**BMR**

In Census 1850, John and Frances (Fannie) are shown as age 30 and 25, respectively. John was a "merchant" of the town of Plymouth. The listing of two young children may indicate a previous marriage by John.

**DAVENPORT**  
**Massachusetts Bay and the Albemarle**  
**Is There A Connection?**

In *The Essex Genealogist*, Eleanor Tucker gave some of the genealogy of the HATHORNE family beginning with three children of William and Sarah Hathorne of Bray and Binfield, county Birks, England.

These three immigrated to the Bay colony about 1634, probably sailing together. Of the three, we find two, William and Elizabeth, of particular interest.

William, born in Bray, was the eldest of the young Hathornes. He quickly became prominent in the public affairs of the Colony, becoming one of its first magistrates, and bearing the title of "major". His son, Major John Hathorne, "became famous for his role as the Witch Judge of the Massachusetts witch trials" circa 1692. Nathaniel (1804-1864), author of *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of the Seven Gables*, was their direct descendant. It was he who resurrected the ancient spelling, HAWTHORNE, of the family name.

Elizabeth (d. 1678) Hathorne, sister of Major William, "married Captain Richard Davenport of Salem, and later Boston. Captain Davenport was "deputy and commander of the fort on Castle Island, Boston Harbor, where he was killed by lightning 15 July, 1665." Among the nine children of Elizabeth and the Captain was John, baptised at Salem 19 September, 1641.

We now take leave of Ms. Tucker and her fascinating Hathorne genealogy and contemplate the Davenports of Perquimans Precinct. Our sort of speculation is not denied the genealogist, as we don't claim a connection, but merely wonder if there was one.

On the north shore of Albemarle Sound, hard by Yeopim River and Yeopim Creek, there lived by 1698 Richard Davenport and his wife, Joanna. The records of Perquimans reveal that this couple had at least six children, Elizabeth, John, Richard, Susanna, Sarah, and Isack, but do not reveal the place(s) of their births. Nor is any clue given as to the place of the senior Richard's origin.

We have here a single family group of whom one-half (Richard, Elizabeth, John, and Sarah) bear given names that we found among the Davenports of the Bay Colony. While this fact doesn't, of course, prove anything (these names were all common in the 17<sup>th</sup> century), one is inclined to ask, "Did John of Salem, son of Richard, sire a son, Richard, who removed to Carolina and fathered, somewhere along the way, sons Richard and John?"

Putting aside, now, the mystery of the Davenport's genealogy, it appears that Richard (senior) likely died shortly after 1703. In 1701-1703, he conveyed land to at least two of his children, including "300 acres (where he then lived) and Batts Grave" to son John. Batt's grave, of legendary celebrity, was an island of thirty, or so, acres just off the mouth of the Yeopim River. Upon receiving the gift, John immediately executed a deed to his father granting him a 'life estate' in the same property for "yearly rent of one ear Indian corn payable at the Feast of Pentecost".

EAN

*(The Essex Genealogist, May 1992. The Journal of The Essex, MA Society of Genealogists.  
History of Perquimans County. Mrs. Watson Winslow)*

## DAVENPORT BIRTHS

### From Perquimans Precinct Records

Elizabeth Davenport the daughter of Richard Davenport and Johana his wife was born the 3d of July 1676

John Davenport the son of Richard Davenport and Johana his wife was born the 3d of November 1671(?)

Agnis Devenport ye daughter of Richard Devenport and Joanah his wife was borne ye 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1691

Susanah ye daughter of Richard Davenport and Joannah his wife was born ye 18<sup>th</sup> of November 1688

Richard Davenport ye son of Richard Davenport and Joanah his wife was borne ye 2d of March 1674

Sarah Devenport ye daughter (of) Richard Devenport and Joanah his wife was borne ye tenth of October 1682

Isack Davonport ye son of Richard Devonport and Joanah his wife was borne ye 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1685

Anne the Daughter of John Davenport and Anne his wife was born the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May Anno Dom 1705

*(Perquimans County Births, Marriages, Deaths & Fleshmarks. 1659-1820)*



## PURTY LIBERAL, THEM 'PISCOPALIANS & METH'DISTS?

Some researchers do a double-take when first reading the St. David's Parish Register. Indeed, one transcriber thought it prudent to type a question-mark after the entry that records that on 14 January 1851 John W. Hooker was married to William E. Spruill, by Rev. J. Avery Shepherd.

The Reverend Shepherd stands acquitted of any charges of same-sex marriage by the will (wd 3 March 1840; wp January Court 1841) of William Spruill, who left property to (my) "youngest daughters Sally Ann Spruill and William Elizabeth."

Another case that has probably raised some eyebrows is the marriage of Richard Wills Norman and Pat. H. Morgan, 3 November, 1911, recorded in Currituck (County) Marriages. We know from other sources that the bride's full maiden name was "Patrick Henry Morgan", and that she was a bona fide girl. It is not recorded if, after marriage, she was ever moved to declaim, like her celebrated namesake of the Revolution, "Give me liberty, or give me death".

Richard Wills Norman was son of Capt. Thomas Joshua (1838-1885) and Mary Brown Norman. A native of Skinnersville, Washington County, he was baptised July 1884 at Rehoboth Methodist Protestant Church. At the time of his marriage, he was living in Salisbury, N.C.

## REMEMBERED THINGS Rhymes My Father Taught Me

Pop was not a "learned" man. Henderson Andrew Norman (1880-1965) read the daily paper and the *Progressive Farmer*; novels, histories, and books of verse were beyond his self-erected literary pale. But he remembered, with obvious pleasure, the verse learned as a child in Skinnersville-Scuppernong—some nonsensical, some thought-provoking, some that simply tickled the funny bone.

Of the verses quoted below, I have seen only "St. Ives" in print. The one about the boy on the burning deck seems a humorous parody of the tear-jerking "Casabianca" by Felicia Hemans (1793-1835).

Bumble Alley, Bumble Bee,  
I've got bumps all over me.  
One on my elbow, one on my knee,  
One on my navel, and that makes three!

As I was going to St. Ives  
I met a man with seven wives.  
Each wife had seven sacks,  
In each sack was seven cats.  
Each cat had seven kits.  
How many were going to St. Ives?

Ole Jim Crow came riding by.  
He said "Young man, your horse will die".  
"If he dies, I'll tan his skin;  
If he lives, I'll ride him agin".

Little fishes in th' brook...  
Pappy catch 'em with a hook...  
Mammy fry 'em in th' pan...  
Baby eat 'em like a man!

Some folks say that a Negro won't steal,  
But I caught two in my cornfield.  
One had a shovel and one had a hoe.  
If *that* ain't stealing, I don't know.

The boy stood on the burning deck,  
Eating potatoes by the peck.  
His daddy called him, but he wouldn't go  
'Cause he loved them 'taters so.

EAN

## MARINE LIST Port of Plymouth

### ARRIVED

Oct. 2, Steamer Phoenix and Barge, Capt. Starve, from Norfolk with mdz. To E.H. Willis, J.M.C. Boyle, S. Kissame and others.

Oct. 2, Schr. Engine, Sanders, from New York, mdz. To S.T. Gaylord and others.

Oct. 2, Schr. Lady, Whitby, Capt. Patridge to E.H. Willis.

Oct. 4, Schr. Sophia Collins, Capt. ----, from Edenton, to E.H. Willis.

Oct. 4, Schr. Mary Wineford, Capt. Ward, from Washington City with lime.

Oct. ---, Canal Boat Stag., Capt. ----, from Norfolk, bound up the river.

Oct. ---, Schr. Gen. Taylor, Capt. ----, from Norfolk, bound up the river.

### CLEARED

Oct. 5, Schr. Buena Vista, Capt. Miller, for Norfolk.

10. Schr. Susan Bray, Captain Brabble, with staves and shingles for Barbadoes.

Schr. Eugene Sanders, Capt. ----, with Naval Stores, for Norfolk.

### TO FISHERMEN

The American Net and Twine Manufacturing Company, Boston, Mass. Manufacture to order Gill Nets Drag Nets, Seines & ., manufactured of the very best material, and if desired, the nets and Seines can be steam-tarred, corked and hung ready for use. The above Company keeps on hand a large supply of Corks, 5 inches in diameter, from 1 to 2 inches thick. Seine Cordage made from the best Russian hemp, stretched, turns all taken out, and reeled ready for use. The usual credit given. Orders Should be sent early to H.B. Short, Agt. Plymouth, N.C. Reference, John G. Williams, Esq. Plymouth, N.C. Oct., 12<sup>th</sup> 1849, --8w.,

**BMR**

*(The Plymouth News. Friday, October 12, 1849.)*



## BASTARDS

The *Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons & Daughters of the Kings of Britain*, founded 1950, numbers among its objectives "To emphasize that what a man makes himself is more important than who his parents may be."



## PROSPECTUS OF THE PLYMOUTH BANNER

The Subscribers, having purchased the „Villager” establishment, are publishing a weekly Newspaper of the above title.

Our paper will be “*independent in all things; and neutral in nothing*” — giving ALL PARTIES and CREEDS a respectful hearing.

It will be devoted to the interests at Plymouth, North Carolina, and the South—to the cause of Education, Agriculture, Internal Improvements, and the development of the resources of the State.

We will do all in our power to make our paper interesting to the general reader, as well as to the business man.

Proper attention will be given to the MARINE LIST and PRICE CURRENT. In short, we will try to make the “Banner” a neat paper. and a companion for all classes, from the Parlor to the Counting Room. And one worth the support of those favoring us with their patronage.

Subscription.—\$2.00 per annum in advance; \$2.50 if paid within six months; \$3.00 at the end of the year.

C. H. KELLY,

Editor.

**BMR**

*(The Plymouth Banner. June 13, 1856.)*



## ADVICE FOR THE BRIDE

Not long ago, I had a call from an old friend seldom seen since our school days. In the course of a lengthy chat, she said “Let me tell you what your grandmother told me as I was about to be married. Miss Lizzie said that someone gave her this advice just before she married: ‘When you go to bed that first night, don’t lie facing him: you will be thought bold. Don’t lie with your back to him: you will be thought cold. Just lie on your back and take the blessings as they come’”.

Grandmother “Lizzie” was nee Elizabeth Boyd. Granddaddy was David C. Davis. The advice must have worked; they share a gravestone in the Davis Cemetery near Davis Landing, Pungo, Beaufort County.

**LAN**

## PETTIGREW'S CHAPEL & ST. DAVID'S CHURCH

Charles Pettigrew (1744?-1807) came to the Scuppernong via Chambersburg, Penna., Lunenburg County, Va., and Granville, Chowan, and Perquimans Counties, North Carolina. Raised a Presbyterian, he became lay reader at St. Paul's (Anglican) Church in Edenton, studied for the ministry, and was ordained in London in 1775 by the Bishop of London. In 1778 he became Rector of St. Paul's. About 1794, he was elected the first Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North Carolina, but was never consecrated due to yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia on at least two attempted trips. The Reverend Pettigrew had good credentials.

Pettigrew acquired land in Tyrrell in 1782, but didn't move there, permanently, until 1797. "Bonarva", on the north shore of Lake Phelps, was one of his properties. The other was "Belgrade" near present Creswell. It was there, a few hundred feet from the present site of the Belgrade manor house (his son moved it to its present location), that he completed his chapel in 1804. Now he could write to his friend and colleague, the Reverend Nathaniel Blount, "Since I have gotten our new chapel in such a state as to meet comfortably in it, I feel myself quite happy in the exercise of my ministerial functions from a variety of circumstances, one of which is, the people attend much better....."

The little chapel continued to be "Pettigrew's" long after the death of the Reverend Charles. Then, in the early 1850's, the congregation committed to the enlargement to a cruciform plan and, in 1857, it was consecrated. "In 1858, the organization of the Parish under the name of St. David's took place."

About 1895, a belfry was constructed and a "very nice bell installed". This writer's father told of driving in to Creswell from Skinnersville behind a spanking mare on New Year's Eve. He would pick up his young lady, and drive with many other young people to St. David's. There they would wildly ring the bell at midnight, as farm bells and "whoops and hollers", and gunshots answered from throughout eastern Scuppernong Township and the wakeful village a mile away.

In 1897 it was decided, over the heated protests of several members, to build a new and larger church in the town of Creswell. This was done. The cornerstone was laid in 1898, and "Christ Church" was dedicated in 1901.

At the laying of the cornerstone, the Bishop's closing remark was "Don't forget old St. David's". It has not been forgotten. It stands today well cared for, still consecrated, used for special occasions such as Christmas Eve services and an occasional wedding. And the number of graves in its churchyard continues to grow. One is reminded of the bit of poetry with which "Miss Annie" Holmes closed her circa 1954 monograph:

Long may it stand a shrine of sacred memories:  
Dear old St. David's ancient walls,  
Beside a city of the dead!  
Within, the sacred evening silence falls,  
And none is left to kneel and bow his head.  
No, none of those who use to worship here  
And pledge their troth at yonder chancel gate,

No earthly form but they are lingering near,  
Alert, transformed, sublime, articulate.

EAN

*(The Pettigrew Paper, Vol. I (1685-1818). North Carolina Archives & History.  
History of St. David's Church and Parish. 1954. Mrs. T.C. Holmes (1872-1966))*



*(Drawing by Charles Gaither)*

*'In memory of Rev. Charles Pettigrew, first Bishop-elect of the Diocese of North Carolina, a faithful and zealous laborer in god's vineyard'*

### **The Chancel Window St. David's Church, Creswell, NC**

Drawing (c. 1948) by Charles Rowe Gaither, son of the Reverend Burgess Wood Gaither, Rector (1939-1952) of St. David's Parish. Charles, a graduate of Creswell High School, jumped behind the German lines in France, fought in The Bulge, and saw protracted combat in Korea.

**PARSON PETTIGREW & PREACHER BIGGS**  
**"Blackgum Against Thunder"**

Amariah Biggs is subject of another article in this Journal. But, perhaps, the following will provide additional insight of this interesting, volatile character of the Primitive Baptist persuasion.

Dr. Lemmon speculates that Biggs may have been a member of the Episcopal vestry, but we have found no substantiating evidence. We only know that he and Charles Pettigrew held deeply opposing views on such issues as infant baptism, and that "all 'political' hell broke loose" at Easter-time, 1800.

On Easter Monday the vestry, meeting "at Mrs. Spruill's in Aligator", discussed the proposed sale of the Parish's glebe lands. Soon afterwards, Biggs publicly accused Reverend Pettigrew with having said that "every stiver" of proceeds from such sale would "come to his pocket". Pettigrew vehemently denied the accusation, and promptly secured the depositions of four attending vestrymen, Joseph Phelps, John Swain, Henry Norman, and John Bateman. Swain's, the shortest of the documents, pretty well sums up the testimony of them all:

"I certify that I have also heard the Rev. Mr. Pettigrew at different times and Particular on the day that the Vestrey Sat at Mrs Spruills declare that not a Stiver of the monies that should rise from a Sale of the Glebe Land Should Ever Come in his pocket Given under my hand this 7 Day of May 1800".

John Swain

The squabble spawned an acrimonious correspondence between Biggs and Pettigrew, with Biggs once writing, "I have greater reason to beleive that the last day without a repentence.....you will be found at the Left of the throne of the magesty on high where you will call for a drop of water to cool your tungue seeing that all ready tis on fiers of hell".

Bigg's accusation greatly distressed Pettigrew through the remaining seven years of his life, and followed him to the grave. The last item of his Last Will and Testament seems to convey more than forgiveness: "And I now leave my Blessing & hearty forgiveness to all those who have at any time ill treated or injured me by either word or Deed, particularly Amariah Biggs, who endeavored by falsehoods cunningly devised to prejudice the people against me, on my settling myself in the County, and I earnestly pray, as I have ever since done, that God may forgive him, and make him truly sensible & sorry for that crime, whereof he cannot but be conscious, although he has hitherto been too proud, and I am afraid I may add, too impenitant to acknowledge it."

EAN

*(The Pettigrew Papers, Vol. I. Edited by Sarah M. Lemmon. NC A&H.)*

## PETTIGREW GOES TO CONGRESS

Ebenezer Pettigrew (1783-1848), of "Bonarva" on Lake Phelps, was persuaded to run for the U.S. House as a Whig in 1835. His opponent was Thomas H. Hall, a Tarboro physician, who had represented the District for most of the terms since 1817. Dr. Hall was a Jacksonian Democrat.

Ebenezer, the only surviving son of the late Reverend Charles, was a proud, but rather retiring gentleman. But once committed to the race, he ran with a right good will, as shown in a letter written from "Lake Phelps Ap 5, 1835" to his intimate friend James Cathcart Johnson of "Hayes", Chowan County:

....I have now entered into the greatest turmoil that it appears any man can get, and what is more awful than all & every other part, the drinking, which seems as necessary to success as to be a citizen of the state. I have been two months on the business & have four more when I hope to be done forever. I have laid my hand to the plough & nothing shall be wanting on my part. My motto is Stimulate, Fulminate, deprecate, & go on at any rate. I stop at nothing, Wine, Brandy, whisky & if necessary Yankey Rum sweetened with molasses & stirred with my finger. My health was never better & though I was in different parts of the district in all bad weather since Christmas I was not made sick.....You will ask why did I get into such a difficulty. My answer, I knew not how to refuse so great and respectable a call, espescially when I had no doubt of success. My prospect is as good as it ever was, & I have made friends wherever I have gone, for I not only know how to take a drink, but I know how to shake hands with & talk to all sorts of men.....I have no doubt of getting a majority in five out of the six counties, & shall not lose more than five votes in Tyrrell & twenty in Washington, & unless something turns up that cannot be forseen the Doctor must stay at home."

That *our* candidate's anticipation of victory was justified is evidenced by the following account of the election in two of the counties:

### THE WHIG

Washington, N. C.

Saturday, August 1, 1835

### OLD RIP WIDE AWAKE!

*The People's Candidate* triumphant!—*good news! good news! glorious news!* Pettigrew is far ahead,—we boast—and we glory in boasting of the fact—that this county has done her duty. She has shown, by her vote, that her face is set against tyranny, and against all and every one who sustain it; and whatever may be the final result of the election, whether it be on the side of the people or against them, so far as the strength of Beaufort county goes, she has rallied in defence of Liberty and the Constitution.

The following are the returns of the Congressional votes from the different districts in this county.

	<i>Pettigrew.</i>	<i>Hall.</i>
Pungo River,	11	35
Log House,	28	16
North Creek,	82	16
Lower Broad Creek,	25	29
Bath,	86	30
Long Acre,	54	22
Upper Broad Creek,	79	58
Washington,	170	63
Tranters Creek,	62	51
Chocowinity,	70	47
Blount's Creek,	55	49
Durham's Creek,	96	2
South Creek,	58	20
Goose Creek,	54	14
	<hr/> 930	<hr/> 452

Majority for Pettigrew, 478

#### *MORE GOOD NEWS!!*

Hear from the Patriotic county of Washington: It has given Pettigrew **460** majority! The poll stands thus:

For Pettigrew, 491,                      Hall, 31.

Thus we go—the people will carry the day.

Of Pettigrew's Congressional service, Dr. Lemmon, editor of *The Pettigrew Papers* comments, "While there he exerted great energy to keep his constituents informed of major speeches and legislation, much to their gratification. He also helped them with their claims against French spoliation and their western land warrents from Revolutionary War veterans. He attempted to secure funds for the improvement of navigation in the sounds and recommended suitable postal routes and postmasters. Pettigrew was a fiscal conservative, an opponent of abolition petitions, and a critic of extravagance and corruption. . . . His temperment could not tolorate the House of Representatives and the City of Washington, however, so he declined to stand for a second term."

*(The WHIG, Washington, N.C. From microfilm, NC A&H.  
The Pettigrew Papers, Vol. II. Edited by Sarah M. Lemmon. NC A&H.)*

**LEST WE FORGET**  
**Days of Humiliation & Celebration**  
**From Laws of North Carolina—1715**

**CHAPTER VII.**

(Repealed by Act 4 April 1741.)

An Act for the better observing the Lord's Day called Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, the 29<sup>th</sup> of May & the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September; And also, for the suppressing Prophaneness, Immorality, & divers other vicious & Enormous Crimes.

I. Forasmuch as by the great neglect in keeping Holy the Lord's Day & the little regard had to all other days & times appointed to be kept religiously, Impiety is likely to grow to a very great height, if not timely prevented, to the great Dishonour of the Almighty and scandal of this Province, Wherefore for the Speedy & Effectual Redressing thereof,

II. Be it Enacted by his Excellency the Palatine and the rest of the True & Absolute Lords Proprietors, by & with the advice & consent of the General Assembly now met at Little River for the North-East of the Province of Carolina,

III. And It is hereby Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from & after the Ratification of this Act, all & every person and persons whatsoever shall on every Lord's Day apply themselves to the holy Observation thereof by exercising themselves publickly & privately in the required duties of Piety & true Religion & that no Tradesman, Artificer, Workman, Labourer, or any other person or persons whatsoever shall do or exercise any Worldly Labour, Business or work of their Ordinary Callings, or shall employ themselves either by Hunting or Fishing on that Day or any part thereof (Works of Necessity & Charity only excepted,) and that every person being of the Age of fourteen years or upwards, Offending in the Premises, shall for every such offence forfeit & pay the sum of Tenn Shillings.

IV. And Be it Further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, being the Day whereon the late Royall Martyr & sovereign King Charles I. Was barbarously murthered; And 22<sup>nd</sup> of September being the Anniversary of the late barbarous massacre committed by the Indians on the Inhabitants of Bath County in the year 1711, are & shall be hereby appointed to be kept & solemnized, annually, as Days of Humiliation, with Fasting & Prayer; And the 29<sup>th</sup> of May being the Day of the Birth & happy Restoration of the late King, Charles II of Blessed Memory shall be yearly celebrated as an Holy Day & that if any person or persons shall be found Gameing, Drinking or Working or otherwise Using and doing any Act or Deed on the said 30<sup>th</sup> of January, 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, or not celebrating the said 29<sup>th</sup> Day of May as an Holy Day, contrary to the true Intent & Meaning of this Act (Works if Necessity & Charity only excepted) he, she, or they, so offending shall be fined the sum of Five Shillings.

*(The Colonial & State Records of North Carolina. Vol. XXIII.)*

## THE FRAYLEY FAMILY

William Frayley/Friley was one of two men of this surname in early Albemarle County. He married by 1701. Grace Scott, daughter of Joshua Scott and Mary Durant(?) of Perquimans Precinct. Mary married 2<sup>nd</sup> Capt. Thomas Blount, married 3<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Lee who gained control of the mill and the Blount land on the east side of Kendricks Creek. By 1727, William Downing owned the mill and the bulk of the Blount land on the east side of Kendricks Creek.

Frayley became the owner of land on the west side of Kendricks Creek between Beaverdam Creek and the headwaters of Kendricks Creek which rises in the Dismal Swamp near Garretts Island. His neighbor to the north was Joseph Buncombe who had married Ann Durant. His neighbors to the south were Richard Swinson and Thomas Hawkins. Hawkins had married Elizabeth Blount, half sister of Captain Thomas Blount. Many of the early inhabitants of Kendricks Creek area were related or soon became related by marriage.

Frayley built a residence and a bridge north of the Lee's Mill site. After the formation of Tyrrell County, Court was held at Frayley's home for many years, even after his death. The Court Minutes of June 1736 show that William Downing Esquire, was "to lay out a site on the East side of Kendricks Creek, adjoining the main road neigh unto Frayley's Bridge, for to build a Courthouse." The Court minutes from 1741 to 1751 are missing and leave a large gap in the records. The deed to the courthouse was not registered until 1748. After the formation of Martin County in 1774, the courthouse was moved to a site on the Scuppernong River.

The Frayleys had one child Mary, who married James Jones who died 1753-54. The most likely place to find more on James Jones would be Nansemond County, VA. James and Mary had the following children:

- I. Evan, born circa 1724, died 1768, married 1<sup>st</sup> circa 1752 Elizabeth Morris daughter of William Morris and Jane Browning. Elizabeth had been the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Stevens Lee, son of Thomas Lee and Mary the widow of Captain Thomas Blount. Evan married 2<sup>nd</sup> by 1758 Mary Downing daughter of William Downing and Ann Barrow.
- II. Mary, born circa 1726, died after 1790, married Richard Draper.
- III. James II, born circa 1728, will 1797 Tyrrell, married 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Stubbs, daughter of Thomas Stubbs and Mary Everett. James 2<sup>nd</sup> wife is unknown by which he had 2 sons. James II's children were:
  - A. Penelope, married 1<sup>st</sup> Jeremiah Long, 2<sup>nd</sup> Francis Mills, 3<sup>rd</sup> James Stubbs.
  - B. Evan, died by 1785, married Anne.
  - C. Mary, married Jesse Stubbs.
  - D. Asia, married Nathan Blount.
  - E. Richard died by 1810, received half of his fathers estate in the 1797 will.
  - F. George W. died 1834, received the other half of the estate.
- IV. Frayley, born circa 1730, died circa 1792, married Margaret Currell, daughter of William Currell.



V. Ann, born circa 1734, married 1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Long, married 2<sup>nd</sup> Thomas Lee, married 3<sup>rd</sup> Martin R. Byrd.

VI. Thomas, born circa 1738, died 1749.

Some research had tied the Jones brothers of Scuppernong-Alligator to the James Jones family. This is not true. Corbin, Bartlett, Timothy, and Ebenezer are proved brothers because the first three inherited land from Ebenezer who died intestate in 1791. In 1784, the law of primogeniture was changed and brothers inherited equally. In 1788, the law read that brothers of both the whole and half blood inherited equally. Sisters did not inherit until 1795. This proves that these Jones brothers were not sons of James Jones II who died in 1797 and named his two living sons in his will. The most likely place to find more on the Jones brothers of Alligator would be Perquimans Co. One Bartlett Jones is seen in the Perquimans records in 1777 with John Gibson who later turns up in Tyrrell County.

William Frayley made a deed of gift dated 8 December 1736, naming 5 of his 6 grandchildren. Thomas had not yet been born. They all received livestock.

The will of William Frayley as abstracted by Bradley is as follows:

28 Aug 1737. To my wife GRACE FRYLY all my estate not hereafter bequeathed during her lifetime; if she should marry, she to have use of 1/3 of my estate; after her death, my daughter during her life to have use of the part bequeathed to my wife. To my grandson EVEN JONES, after the deaths of my wife & daughter, 300 acres including the plantation where I now live. To my grandson FRYLY JONES, after the deaths of my wife & daughter, the remaining land, 1 feather bed & furniture. To the others of my sd daughter's sons, after the deaths of my wife & daughter, all my other lands. If my sd daughter should predecease my wife or die before my wife remarry, then the part that would have gone to the use of my daughter MARY go to my grandchildren as above.

Executors: My wife, my daughter, CULLEN POLLOCK.

WILLIAM(x)FRYLY. Wit: Steven Lee; Robt. McBrie; Thomas Lee. Probated 7 Mar 1737 [note discrepancy with date of will] before Anderson Sugg, DC, James Craven, CC.

June Court 1740, Grace Frayley presented William Frayley's estate inventory in open court. This is the last reference we have in the records on the Frayleys.

AHN  
VLE



### FOLK REMEDY

To remove a wart, find a stump-hole of water in the woods and bathe the wart in it.

**SOUTH LANCASTER**  
**(An Intimidating Place?)**  
**From Laws of North Carolina—1715**

CHAPTER V.

An Act for the Speedy Settlement of Lands.

I. Whereas there are several of the Inhabitants within this Country that formerly did clear some small quantity of Land & built some Houses thereon which they have forsaken; especially on the South Lancaster side & the West side of Chowan, and other parts of the Country. And forasmuch as the Land lyeth void & unplanted; which proves an hindrance of the settlement of the Country:

II. Be it therefore Enacted by the Palatin & Lords Proprietors by & with the consent & advice of the present Grand Assembly and the Authority thereof, that any person or persons that have.

(The rest is lost.)

*(The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina. Vol. XXIII.)*

South Lancaster lay on the *south shore* of Albemarle Sound and, almost surely included the “Pea Ridge” area of present Skinnersville Township.

Not all previously established homesteads now lay “void & unplanted”, but we are led to believe, by this brief fragment of a law, that an alarming number of settlers had retreated from the area, sometimes referred to as “the haunt of beasts”.



Zeb Vance Norman (1888-1968), Plymouth attorney and past-president of the North Carolina Bar Association, would occasionally spout a bit of innocent, naughty humor that would make the secretaries blush. Such as:

Simple Simon went to market  
To get a joint of meat.  
He hung it from his horse's tail  
To keep it fresh and sweet.

Young ladies, you recall, blushed more readily 35 years ago.

## DEADBEAT DADS OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

A reading of the "200 Years Ago" article in this Journal will discover four instances of the Tyrrell Court's attempt to collect support payments from fathers of bastard children. This problem, we see, isn't unique to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, nor was it new in the 18<sup>th</sup>.

In the cases cited, the court-ordered payments for the "support and maintenance" of illegitimate children "begotten on the bodies" of the various young women had not been paid. Now, "execution" was begun against the deadbeats and their "securities", i.e., bondsmen. As in the case of marriage (and various other) bonds, the bonded person induced some other person or persons to co-sign the bond, pledging the faithful performance of the "conditions" thereof, and committing to pay in the event of default by the principal. We can imagine the chagrin of the security faced with his friend's default. "Damme", we can hear him lament, "Joe had all the fun, and now I got to pay for it".

Of the four cases, we can trace Murrey's back to the previous year. As the Minutes speak of his "executors", he may now have been dead.

Darius Spruill had apparently left the county, and papers were to be sent in pursuit to Beaufort County. Darius was son (grandson?) of Nehemiah, of "Spruill's Bridge" on the upper Scuppernon River.

Andrew Oliver was, almost surely, father of Elias Oliver whose will was featured in WCGSJ August 1995.



## RINGING THE HOGS

Most of us of more than 'tender' years, who grew up on the farm, remember that the family swine would have their noses 'ringed' periodically. The metal rings were applied with an instrument remarkably like the dentists' old-fashioned forceps. Rings discouraged destructive rooting beneath fences, around fruit trees, and all manner of places where pigs really had no business sticking their noses.

Ringling was no modern innovation. Frances and Joseph Gies, in their *Life in a Medieval Village* (Harper & Row, 1990) write of life in Elton, Huntington District, England, circa 1300:

Unlike sheep, pigs could take care of themselves against predators and so could be allowed to run free. This led to the problem of their rooting in somebody's garden, especially in the winter, leading in turn to numerous bylaws requiring rings—bits of curved wire—in their noses....."

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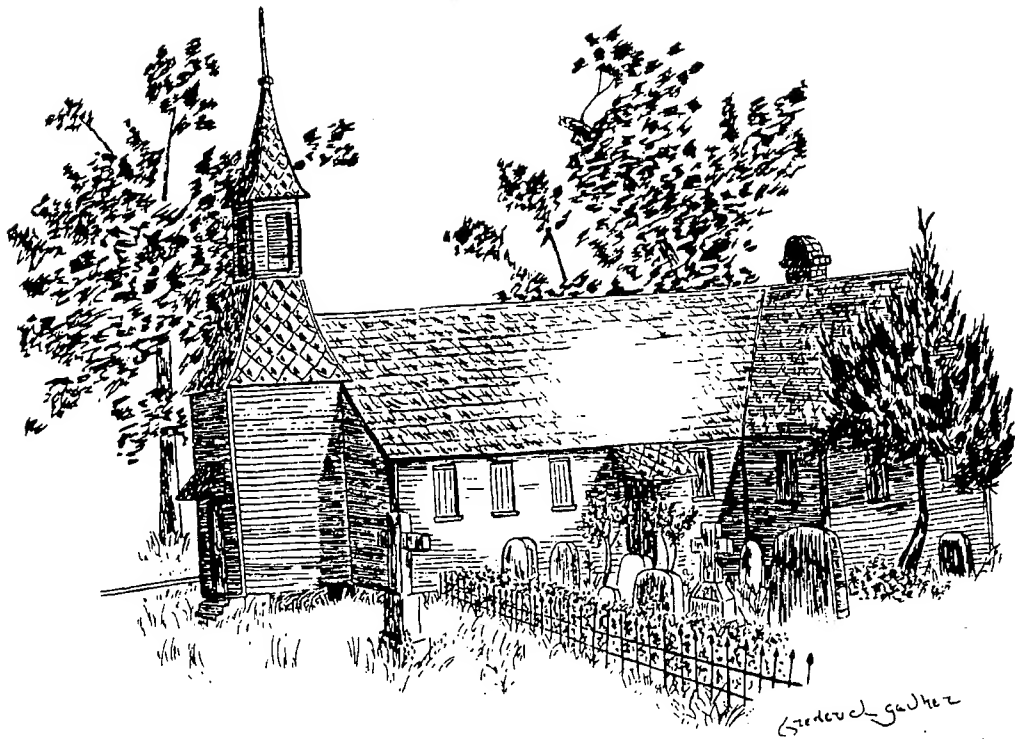
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St. David's Church  
Creswell, North Carolina

Drawing (c. 1950) by Frederick Drane Gaither